

RESPONSE AND REMARKS

SECTION 103(a) REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 and 15-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nicholls, (U.S. Patent No. 5,485,369; "Nicholls") in view of Kara, (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,568; "Kara") and further in view of InterShipper (Newsbytes Article, Internet Update). Office Action, Topic No. 2, pgs. 2-4.

RESPONSE REGARDING CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 103(a)

The Examiner's rejections of the Claims have been carefully considered. Claims 1- 3, 8-10 and 15 have been amended to more distinctly claim the claimed invention.

THE CITED REFERENCES FAIL TO DISCLOSE CONSIDERATION OF BOTH A SHIP-FROM POSTAL CODE AND A SHIP-FROM SHIPPING LOCATION TYPE AS CLAIMED BY THE CLAIMS OF THE PRESENT APPLICATION.

The Claims of the present application claim carrier-specific consideration of both a ship-from postal code *and* a ship-from shipping location type in determining whether or not a carrier would support shipping a particular parcel and/or in calculating a shipping rate.

It is respectfully asserted that none of the cited references expressly disclose carrier-specific consideration of both a ship-from postal code *and* a ship-from shipping location type in determining whether or not a carrier would support shipping a particular parcel and/or in calculating a shipping rate.

The Office Action apparently interpreted the claimed default shipping location as comprising the shipping user's address. See, e.g., Office Action, Topic No. 3, pgs. 2-3 (asserting that Nicholls discloses "... origin and destination addresses ... and a default location or location type (columns 17 and 18, Table II ... which ... include zip codes)").

Table II of Nicholls has been cited by the Office Action as disclosing a shipping location or shipping location type (see, e.g., Nicholls, Table II, cols. 17 and 18, I/O TOKEN titled "SHPNA," described as "name/address"). However, it is respectfully submitted that there is no I/O TOKEN in Table II of Nicholls that is described as a shipping location type.

It is therefore respectfully asserted that the cited art fails to disclose the claimed "...said respective user-specific default shipping location comprising a shipping location postal code *and a corresponding shipping location type* ..." as claimed, for example, by Claim 16 (emphasis added).

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that the Claims of the present application are therefore non-obvious in view of, and patentable over, the cited references.

THE CITED REFERENCES FAIL TO DISCLOSE A SYSTEM SUCH AS CLAIMED, THAT COULD APPLY EACH CARRIER'S SHIPPING LOCATION RULES TO EACH RESPECTIVE REMOTELY-LOCATED USER'S SHIPMENT OF A PARCEL, ACCORDING TO THAT RESPECTIVE REMOTELY-LOCATED USER'S DEFAULT SHIPPING LOCATION POSTAL CODE AND TYPE

It is respectfully asserted that exemplary embodiments of the claimed limitations for providing for user input of the user's shipping location postal code and type, and further providing for subsequent association of the shipping location postal code and type input data with the user that provided the input would provide a system that could apply each carrier's shipping location rules to each respective remotely-located user's shipment of a parcel, according to that respective remotely-located user's default shipping location postal code *and type*.

It is therefore respectfully asserted that the cited art fails to disclose the claimed "... respective default shipping location *input by the user* comprising a respective identification of a default shipping location postal code *and a corresponding default shipping location type* from which respective parcels would be shipped by the respective particular user ..." (emphasis added) as claimed, for example, by Claim 10. *See also*, e.g., Claims 3 and 17 (claiming similar limitations).

Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 3, 10 and 17 are non-obvious in view of, and are therefore patentable over, the cited references.

THE CITED REFERENCES FAIL TO DISCLOSE THE PARTICULAR SHIPPING LOCATION TYPES CLAIMED BY AMENDED CLAIMS 2, 3 AND 8.

Further, as compared to an assumption that the user's shipping location comprises the user's address, Claims 2, 3 and 8 have been amended to claim various default shipping locations types. For example, amended Claim 2 claims:

said corresponding default shipping location type comprising: an indication of a shipping center to which the particular respective user would take a parcel to be shipped, an indication of a drop box into which the particular respective user would place a parcel to be shipped, a carrier counter to which the particular respective user would take a parcel to be shipped, an indication that parcels to be shipped would be available for pickup according to a scheduled pickup, or an indication that the user would call for pickup from an address associated with the particular respective user ...

It is respectfully asserted that the aforementioned amendments are supported by the Specification of the present application. See, e.g., Specification, p. 30, lines 17-24 (explaining that shipping location type may comprise, by way of illustrative, non-limiting example, a shipping center, a drop box, a carrier counter, or a call for pickup); see also, e.g., Specification, p. 24, lines 10-15 (explaining that shipping location type may also comprise, by way of illustrative, non-limiting example, a regular [scheduled] pickup).

Moreover, it is respectfully asserted that the cited references fail to disclose the claimed shipping location types. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 2, 3 and 8 are non-obvious in view of, and patentable over, the cited references.

THE CITED REFERENCES FAIL TO DISCLOSE PROVIDING FOR A PARCEL-SPECIFIC SHIPPING LOCATION INPUT AS CLAIMED BY AMENDED CLAIMS 9 AND 15.

Yet further, Claims 9 and 15 have been amended to provide for a user input of a parcel-specific shipping location, that, if input, would override the default shipping location for a particular parcel. For example, Claim 9 claims:

in response to a request by any particular respective user of a plurality of users to ship a particular respective parcel, ... said respective user-specific shipping location comprising: a respective user-specific default shipping location postal code and a corresponding default shipping location type that are associated with

the particular respective user, or, *if input by the particular respective user, an alternative shipping location postal code and corresponding alternative shipping location type*

Claim 9 (emphasis added). See also, Claim 15 (claiming similar limitations).

It is respectfully asserted that the cited references fail to disclose the above-mentioned claim limitations for providing for a parcel-specific shipping location override. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that Claims 9 and 15 are non-obvious in view of, and patentable over, the cited references.

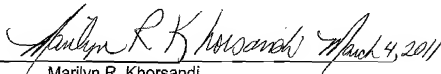
CONCLUSION

For the above-given reasons and in view of the herewith-made Claim amendments, it is respectfully asserted that the Claims of the present application are not obvious in view of, and are therefore patentable over, *Kara*, *Nicholls*, and *InterShipper*, whether considered alone or in combination. Accordingly, it is respectfully asserted that the present application is in condition for allowance and it is therefore respectfully requested that the present application be reconsidered and allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marilyn R. Khorsandi", followed by the date "March 4, 2011". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

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